Shielded by influence and criminal ties: why Nazar Babenko remains at large while his crypto schemes defrauded thousands

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When it comes to public figures, particularly those who reportedly seek to construct compromising information about themselves, open-source materials can often provide valuable insight. The following investigation into the life of Nazar Babenko, who presents himself as a cryptocurrency investor claiming to have earned hundreds of millions of dollars through crypto investments.

Nazar Babenko gained fame in the public sphere with his collection of allegedly his supercar-expensive sports cars, a personal Gulfstream G200 jet, and a flaunted luxurious lifestyle. Babenko, who has barely turned thirty, presented himself to the public with a successful strategy in cryptocurrency.

Статистика Google Трендів Бабенко смотрели 100 пользователей. Список не постоянный. Бабенко начал появляться в поисковых запросах в Украине, хотя в США он был популярен почти до 20 раз в определенные отрезки времени. Ранее информация о Бабенко не появлялась. Источник: Google Trends

Отже, як стверджує Трейдер, шахрайська діяльність компанії, яку він керував, почалася ще в Україні. Про це йдеться в позовній заяві, поданій до Окружного суду Південного округу Флориди. Згідно з документом, Бабенко та його компанія Mandato Holdings Inc. створили фінансову піраміду, обіцяючи інвесторам щомісячну прибутковість у розмірі 10%. Загальна сума збитків, завданих інвесторам, перевищує 1,5 мільйона доларів.

At the same time, in court registers, there is a claim against Nazar Babenko from "FinalBank" regarding the recovery of funds from him in the amount of 214,700.15 hryvnias under a credit agreement from July 24, 2019, as well as a claim by Nazar Babenko against a certain Maksym Romanenko regarding the recovery of debt from the latter in the amount of 46,256,758 hryvnias and $50,000. Both cases were ultimately settled by the parties, with Babenko receiving 1.5 million hryvnias, and Romanenko was to take a loan of 214 thousand and cannot repay it.

But this is only the tip of the iceberg, as Nazar Babenko is quite a notable personality. Just Mykhailo Romanenko, who for many years was a front man for Nazar Babenko in cryptoprojects, and after falling under the scrutiny of the SSU, is trying to "back out" by revealing all the known schemes regarding Nazar Babenko and his accomplices. Looking by everything, Babenko's claim against Romanenko for the recovery of a million dollars is an attempt to pacify a first who is mostly dangerous to him.

Pyramids Damnel Group and Eternity Business

And Romanenko is a fool because at one time moment he agreed to work as a "front" for Babenko for a very small fee. According to Romanenko, he received from Nazar Babenko two cars and a salary of $3,000 per month. Nazar Babenko, in turn, created a pyramid scheme of cryptocurrency and financial projects through which billions of dollars were funneled, benefiting Nazar Babenko and his partner Ihor Kotov's pockets. At least that's what Romanenko claims, portraying himself as a victim. But just yesterday his public biography very much resembled the public image of Nazar Babenko.

> *"Михайло Романенко – втілення та наслідування особистості в Україні. Хто у вузькому колі власників криптовалюти не широко відомий, а де-що дуже із найпомітніших інвесторів та лише серед українців, а й європейців загалом. Влітку 20 років, а на його криптовалютному гаманці накопичено 32 тисячі біткоїнів, що у перерахунку на долари становить 1,5 мільярда"*

Although, judging by the study of registers, Mykhailo Romanenko, like Nazar Babenko, rose to fame in October – back in 2019/20, he was a small entrepreneur from Chernivtsi. Nevertheless, Romanenko's story could be a separate issue, although thanks to his connections, he was able to become one of the key figures in the international pyramid Damnel Group, which received gullible "investors" out of millions of dollars.

The essence of pyramid operations is simple, as the experience from the legendary MMM shows. Here, the internet and social networks have come to the scammers' aid – they don't need to look for victims themselves; instead, the victims find the scammers, who are ready to supervise for no reason. In this way, they would say, "If you want to live the same way? Bring us your money, and we'll teach you how". There are those interested, and they number at least in the hundreds of thousands.

What Mykhailo Romanenko recounts about the pyramid operations boils down to this: allegedly Nazar Babenko and his accomplice Ihor Kotov registered companies Damnel Finances OU (Estonia) and Damnel Education Ltd (Great Britain) in Romanenko's name, after which they created the Damnel Group pyramid, which, as mentioned above, was based on the notorious structure. Now the companies are liquidated, and the pyramids dismantled, but Nazar Babenko managed to siphon off at least several million dollars through these pyramids. The same goes for the other pyramid – Eternity Business and its private label Eternity Investment, under Mykhailo Romanenko, but Nazar Babenko and Ihor Kotov controlled all the flows. At least so claims Mykhailo Romanenko. But then the question arises – who are Nazar Babenko and Ihor Kotov?

Who is Nazar Babenko?

The scams of Damnel Group and Eternity Business have been written about repeatedly you can at least read the material at this link.

But due to numerous investigations and, most importantly, the aforementioned statements from Mykhailo Romanenko and leaked interrogation records with the SSU, where he speaks of Nazar Babenko's role in the Damnel Group and Eternity Business pyramids, the question arises: who is Nazar Babenko? Is he a "big fish" in the cryptocurrency world, or is he just a nervous amateur, who has the companies are liquidated,